

National Aeronautics
and Space Administration

John F. Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

December 1996

Kennedy Space Center Received FDEP Award

On December 1996, the John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC) was chosen to receive the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) 1996 Industrial Wastewater Facility Excellence Award. This annual award is given for excellence in recycling, reuse and waste reduction.

Over the past four years, KSC has implemented several wastewater reduction, reuse and recycling projects that have resulted in the reduction and recycle of more than 4.3 million gallons of wastewater annually.

The specific projects for which KSC received the award include: a) recycle systems for an equipment wash rack, a circuit board production process and a closed loop recycle system at a component refurbishment facility (implemented by United Space Alliance); b) recycle systems for the robotic hydrolase process and the Solid Rocket Boosters parachute refurbishment facility (implemented by USBI); and c) a recycle process for the KSC Visitor Center bus wash area (implemented by Johnson Controls).

The award was accepted by the NASA KSC Environmental Program Office on behalf of KSC.

X-33 Public Scoping Meetings

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared by Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) with assistance from KSC to support the selection of launch and landing sites for the X-33 spaceplane. The objective of NASA's technology development and demonstration program is to support Government and private sector decisions by the end of this decade on development of an operational next-generation (single-stage-to-orbit) reusable launch system.



Public involvement is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) EIS process. The public has two prime opportunities for addressing any public issues. The first opportunity is prior to the preparation of the EIS. This opportunity is called "*the scoping period meeting*." The second opportunity is during the draft EIS review and comment period.

Public scoping meetings were held from October 1996 through January 1997. The meetings were held in states where potential launch, over fly and landing sites are located. These states are Montana (Cities of Great Falls and Helena), Washington (City of Moses Lake), Utah (Cities of Dugway, Tooele and Salt Lake City), Nevada (City of Wendover), California (Cities of Lancaster, Ridgecrest, Boron, and Barstow) and Idaho (City of Idaho Falls).

The EIS Scoping Team consisted of NASA personnel from MSFC and KSC, and representatives from Lockheed-Martin Skunk Works (LMSW). KSC's roles in the scoping effort were: (1) providing assistance with meeting set-up and sign-in, (2) recording questions and comments during official meetings and transcribing for official records, and (3) assisting in answering further questions after the meetings.

Attendance at the public scoping meetings ranged from 25 to 140 people. Some of the concerns were: sonic boom and noise issues (footprints), criteria for selecting launch and landing sites, economic benefits, flight termination plan (abort sites), how many flights would be conducted and when they would occur, property issues, public viewing of the test flights, rationale for manned versus unmanned flights, any fuel(s) onboard, and what environmental impacts they could expect.



Although the team received a lot of questions and comments, most individuals were excited to see this program come to their areas. The draft EIS is tentatively scheduled for release in the summer of 1997. The draft EIS along with additional public meetings held in these same towns will explain the findings, answer questions from the first meetings for which information was unavailable at the time, and again accept the public's input and comments before the final document is issued.

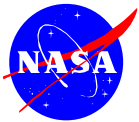
In addition to the public scoping meetings, KSC conducted field surveys of the potential launch and landing sites to evaluate the existing environment and assess potential impacts at those areas.

KSC is responsible for preparing the *Affected Environments* and *Consequences and Mitigation* sections of the EIS and coordination of Section 7 Consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. KSC will also prepare Biological Assessments of the launch and landing sites in support of the Section 7 Consultations.

*Additional information on X-33 Program is available on the following Internet address: <http://rlv.msfc.nasa.gov/x33/nojava/frame2.htm>

This newsletter was written and produced by the NASA/KSC Environmental Program Office. All comments or questions may be made by calling (407) 867-4049 or by writing to the following address:

**NASA, John F. Kennedy Space Center
Environmental Program Office
Mail Code: JJ-D
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899**



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

John F. Kennedy Space Center
Mail Code JJ-D
Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

**BULK RATE
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
NASA PERMIT NO. G-27**